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PROGRAM The Daily Drum

STATION WHUR Radio

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CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Libyan Hitmen and CIA

BILL CHRISTIAN: The head of an Arab-American organization here in the US thinks the Libyan hitman stories may be the work of the CIA.

Gene Miller has the story.

GENE MILLER: The White House obviously takes the Libyan hit team threat seriously, but the President of the American-Arab Relations Committee, Dr. M.T. Madie[?], has a hard time swallowing it.

DR. M. T. MADIE: The story is really absurd. It's unbelievable. The story exists -- these five men exist in the imagination of a CIA official who is high. And high, I mean, on grass.

MILLER: Madie's opinions come after years of travel through the Middle East and meetings with Arab leaders including Qaddafi himself.

DR. MADIE: I know Qaddaffi. Personally, I know the man. He may do certain silly things, but not stupid things. And to try to kill the President of the United States is really absurd, is really stupid.

MILLER: Madie suspects the story is being made up by US intelligence which, he says, is trying to turn American sentiment against Qaddafi. He thinks the CIA will use this alleged incident as a the basis for a Qaddafi overthrow so a pro-US leader could replace him.

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Madie and Qaddafi have at least one thing in common, both want to see proof such a hit squad exists.

DR. MADIE: If it is true, then we all have the right to damn Qaddafi a hundred percent. But if it is not true, and the CIA has been using the news media and misleading the American people, that also should be investigated.

MILLER: Madie suggests that if the US wants to gain the sympathy of Arab nations it should quit arming and aiding both sides in the Middle East and start appealing to Moslem fundamentalists who will never go along with communism.

In Milwaukee, I'm Gene Miller reporting for the Pacific News Service.